

MEMO

TO: Prevention Partnership Providers and
Local Public Health Units

FROM: Heather Weaver
Immunization Program Manager

RE: Availability of Rotavirus Vaccine

DATE: May 31, 2006

Rotavirus vaccine is now available for order from the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Immunization Program. Rotateq™ (Merck vaccine) is a liquid vaccine given by mouth in three doses. It is only approved for children between the ages of 6 and 32 weeks. Data regarding the safety and efficacy of rotavirus vaccine outside this age range is not available. Children must receive the first dose by 12 weeks of age and must receive all doses by 32 weeks of age. The minimum interval between doses must be at least 4 weeks. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that rotavirus vaccine be routinely administered at ages 2, 4 and 6 months.

There is no routine “catch-up” for this vaccine. Children older than 12 weeks of age should not be started on the Rotateq™ series. Please keep this in mind when ordering your supply of vaccine for your facility. **This vaccine must be kept in the refrigerator between 35 degrees and 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 – 6 degrees Celsius.)**

Please use the enclosed order form to order rotavirus vaccine. If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call at 701.328.3386 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

Enclosure